



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

United States Patent and Trademark Office

Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/516,851	12/03/2004	Alfons Bockmann	MY-27PCT	7267
40570	7590	11/26/2008		
FRIEDRICH KUEFFNER				
317 MADISON AVENUE, SUITE 910				
NEW YORK, NY 10017				
EXAMINER				
O HERN, BRENT T				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
1794				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
11/26/2008		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/516,851

Applicant(s)

BOCKMANN ET AL.

Examiner

BRENT T. O. HERN

Art Unit

1794

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 September 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 5 and 7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 2, 5 and 7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claims

1. Claims 1-2, 5 and 7 are pending.

WITHDRAWN REJECTIONS

2. All rejections of record in the Office action mailed 9 May 2008, pp. 3-6, paras. 7-13, have been withdrawn due to Applicant's amendments in the Paper filed 15 September 2008.

NEW REJECTIONS

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-2, 5 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Carlblom (US 5,637,365).

Carlblom ('365) teaches a plastic container of polyolefins (*See col. 2, ll. 22-25.*), a coating that hinders the diffusion of oxygen, wherein the exterior and/or interior surfaces of the container are coated with the coating with oxygen barrier properties, and the coating being of a material compatible to material and to the contents of the container with respect to properties of the coating selected from mechanical strength, thermal expansion, and chemical resistance, wherein the coating material is based on modern epoxy resins or amine adducts, and wherein the coating has a thickness of 0.003 to

0.03 μm (See col. 1, ll. 9-14, col. 2, ll. 21-33, col. 3, ll. 7-13, col. 4, ll. 50-60, col. 10, ll. 50-67 and col. 12, ll. 14-31 where the coating is less than 0.5 mil (12.7 μm) which is in the above range that is applied to the treated surface by one of various techniques and is heat cured.).

In the alternative, a person having ordinary skill in the art would obviously appreciate or provide that the above thickness is within the above range. See col.4, ll. 50-60 where Carlblom ('365) teaches that the coating is made just thick enough so as to provide sufficient increase in shelf life at the lowest cost, but not too thick and wasting money. Thus, a rejection under 35 USC 102/103 is proper (See MPEP 2112.).

The phrase "for the packaging and long-term storage of food products the container comprising to reduce the amount of oxygen penetrating the plastic container in a closed portion thereof" in claim 1, lines 2-4 is deemed to be a statement with regard to the intended use and is not further limiting in so far as the structure is concerned (see MPEP 2111.02). Carlblom's ('365) product is clearly cable of being used as such.

The phrases "wherein the coating is applied by spray coating and/or dip coating only the outer surface or the entire freely accessible surface of the plastic container in one operation" in claim 2, lines 2-4 and "wherein, after it has been applied to the container surface, the coating is subjected to an aftertreatment that consists, for example, of heating or UV irradiation for the purpose of drying it or curing it" in claim 5, lines 2-5 and "wherein the container surface to be coated is pretreated, by flame treating, before it is coated and is then fat-free and/or dust-free and/or roughened" in claim 7, lines 2-4 are process limitations in product claims and hence given little

patentable weight since patentability of a product does not depend on its method of production (*see MPEP § 2173.05(p)*). Carlblom's ('365) product is clearly cable of being made by the above process.

ANSWERS TO APPLICANT'S ARGUMENTS

4. Applicant's arguments (*pp. 6-11 of Applicant's Paper filed 15 September 2008*) regarding the prior art of record have been fully considered and are not persuasive. Much of the text on said pages are restatements of various passages of Carlblom ('365) and do not precisely set forth specific arguments regarding the cited teachings of the limitations of Applicant's claims as taught by Carlblom ('365).
5. In response to Applicant's arguments (*p. 7, para. 1 of Applicant's Paper filed 18 April 2008*) that Carlblom ('365) does not teach a coating suitable for a coating as recited by the claims, it is noted that "suitable for coating" is not a claimed. Furthermore, Carlblom ('365) clearly teaches the same coated container as Applicant claims (*See col. 1, ll. 9-14, col. 2, ll. 21-33, col. 3, ll. 7-13, col. 4, ll. 50-60, col. 10, ll. 50-67 and col. 12, ll. 14-31.*).
6. In response to Applicant's arguments (*p. 11, para. 2 of Applicant's Paper filed 18 April 2008*) that 12.7 μm is not within the range of 0.003 to 0.03 μm , it is noted that the Examiner does not disagree and the Examiner never stated that said specific value is within the above range. Carlblom ('365) expressly teaches values less than 12.7 μm which is within the above range and Applicant has not addressed.
7. Applicant does not set forth any further precise arguments where any specific limitation is not taught by the prior art of record.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRENT T. O HERN whose telephone number is (571)272-0496. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday, 9:00-6:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Larry Tarazano can be reached on (571) 272-1515. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/BTO/
Brent T O'Hern
Examiner, Art Unit 1794
November 12, 2008

/Elizabeth M. Cole/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794